

2009 was the year of settling in and learning how to live in our new church home. This large room was designed to function as a worship space and a parish hall. We experimented with this concept and hosted several diocesan meetings here. We hosted an evening of the Path Light Course, which was offered as part of the Parish Mission Leader Certification program. We hosted a deanery meeting for the Eastern Deanery. We hosted a clergy luncheon for a clerical organization that Fr. Tobola belongs to. We offered light suppers each Wednesday during Lent, prior to Stations of the Cross. All in all, we have found that if we are organized and work in teams, this room is perfect for our present needs. By hosting these events we've learned a lot about the building, and we've learned that some things need to be rethought and reworked. We are still fine tuning the cleaning and lawn care teams, as well as, the nursery. **But**, that's okay because it means that we're having growing pains.

The **Mission and Outreach Committee** under the able leadership of Kristi Heffron, accomplished many things last year.

- They helped to organize the Lenten Suppers that preceded the Stations of the Cross.
- They Offered a newer version of the St. Barnabas T-shirt.
- They Mailed invitations to our Easter and Christmas services.

- They Participated in the Christmas offering for La Gran Familia's playground.
- They Organized the Pet Blessing. Even though we were rained out, the organizational work had been done.
- They transported offerings to the Community Storehouse on a monthly basis, and coordinated back to school, thanksgiving, and Christmas collections.
- They Participated in the Community Storehouse Holiday House.

Possibly the single most important accomplishment of the Outreach Committee last year, though, was the hosting of two ALPHA Courses. If you're not familiar with ALPHA, Alpha is an informal, non threatening program that can mean the beginning of new life for attendees. People who are seeking answers are sometimes intimidated or uncomfortable in a church setting with it's unfamiliar rituals. But, offer a meal in a casual setting with other seekers, and people feel free to ask tough questions. What a blessing to have had John and Kristi Heffron take the initiative and get this program going at St. Barnabas!

We saw the commitment to our Companion Diocese of **Northern Malawi** remain strong. Our annual commitment is \$1200.00, but this year we collected \$2,700.00. Last year the Outreach committee was supporting

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the missionary effort to Northern Malawi by raising funds to send Kristi to Malawi on a mission trip. The trip was postponed and restructured, **but** the important fact to grasp from **this**, is the willingness and desire of our church to foster and support missionary service.

We currently have five active **home groups**. Membership in these groups would encompass about 25% of the congregation. The groups are very different and each one offers a unique approach to Christian Community. We have one group for parents of small children, two groups that offer Bible Study, one group that practices the Rule of St. Benedict, and one group that reads current Christian books. Church plant experts will tell you that small home groups are essential in keeping people connected with each other. Home groups provide a stable, friendly environment in which to deepen our understanding of scripture and to create authentic Christian Community. They provide fellowship when things are going well, and they provide a safety net when things are not going quite so well. If you have not yet visited a home group here at St. Barnabas, I would ask you to consider giving one a try.

The Agape Youth group had a good year and being in the building made planning interesting activities a lot easier. The group usually meets the first and third Sunday evenings of each month except during July and

August. Average attendance was anywhere from 7 to 19 youth per meeting. They had a fun outing to Camp Crucis last April, which included a family picnic and horse back riding. They had an end of the school year swim party and Christmas party. They have had movie and pizza night, as well as, a game night. This past Sunday a group of 19 went to see the new film, "To Save a Life". The youth are also planning a lock in, and a talent showcase. Our youth are the church leaders of tomorrow and we value them highly at St. Barnabas. We are so grateful to the ministries of Corey Hall, Nancy Stafford and Ed Rojas who are doing such fine work with our youth group.

We have completed the third year of our **capital campaign**. As many of you know, we felt it necessary, because of the sluggish economy, to extend the campaign until the end of June 2010. To date, we have collected \$303K. The projections are very positive, but we will need to remain faithful to our commitment during this final six months in order to refinance the loan in November.

I want to elaborate a little bit on the **financial information** that Carol shared with you earlier. Our total income was \$164,372.00, our total expenses were \$174,628.00. Our expenses exceeded our income by 6.24%. Our pledged income was down 5.25% which affects the expense differential. *A very positive trend* that we've noticed, though, is that our non pledge

income completely doubled in 2009, and once we analyzed the pluses and minuses, we were down only about 2.4%. These figures are really very good, given the economy that we are in. God continues to bless us in so many ways and we give thanks to Him.

As you may recall hearing at some point, St. Barnabas was the recipient of a \$200K, 2% interest loan from the **Crump Foundation**. This foundation lends new church starts money at very low interest rates. This loan money was not available to us until the building was completed. We closed on this loan early in 2009. The proceeds from this loan have been applied to the principal on the Frost Construction loan, thereby reducing the amount of interest we are paying on that.

As you all are aware, our Diocese continues with the litigation brought against it by The Episcopal Church. The latest report from our attorneys continues to be upbeat. They are confident we will prevail. Also, you may know, in the midst of our realignment, our Diocese has entered in to ecumenical dialogue with the Orthodox and Catholic Churches. The Bishop's Committee will be following and studying these developments in the coming year.

This **concludes** the Bishop's Warden's Report for 2009.